

## Current Highlights for the New Forest Plan – January 2009

1. Shift the Plan format away from the Management Area concept used in the 1993 Plan. Identify desired conditions for Special Areas (such as wilderness and special biologic areas), geographic areas (such as the Appalachian Trail Corridor and Backcountry Recreation Areas), and for the rest of the forest that is not included in the specified areas.
2. Utilize the riparian guidelines from the Jefferson NF Plan for all riparian areas on the GW.
3. Add Special Biological Areas that will raise the acres from 70,000 to 112,000 acres.
4. Maintain about 350,000 acres of land as suitable for timber production.
5. Areas most likely identified for wilderness recommendation: Little River (need to determine boundary and size), Ramseys Draft (eastern half with boundary adjustment), St. Marys (west), and Rich Hole Addition (with boundary adjustment).
6. Most (96%) of the Inventoried Roadless Areas from the 1993 Plan would have desired conditions, suitable uses and guidelines that would generally prohibit road construction and timber harvest. However, the area within ½ mile of existing roads along or in the roadless area that are currently suitable for timber harvest, can continue to be managed using timber and salvage harvest along existing roads would be allowed. Most of the remainder of the acreage within the Potential Wilderness Inventory would be managed as in the current Plan.
7. Identify areas of the Forest that are not suitable for the development of wind energy. These unsuitable areas include wilderness, National Scenic Areas, special interest areas, Indiana bat protection areas, the Appalachian Trail corridor, and remote backcountry areas.
8. Since there will no longer be separate areas identified for remote habitat or for habitat with restricted road management, there will no longer be road density standards. However, the desired condition is to keep the current miles of open roads on the forest (no increase).
9. An objective will be added to decommission authorized and unauthorized roads at a rate of about 10-15 miles per decade.
10. No additional ATV use areas are planned, the Archer Run area identified as a future ATV use area in the 1993 plan will be dropped as a potential ATV use area.
11. The miles of OHV roads will stay at approximately the current level.
12. Non-motorized trail emphasis will be on maintaining and improving existing trails, though trail construction will be evaluated as opportunities arise, with emphasis on loop trails.
13. Identify a desired condition to maintain the levels of Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized and Semi-Primitive Motorized recreation settings at about their current levels.
14. Adopt the Region 8 guidelines on old growth; old growth in forest types 21 (dry-mesic oak forest) that are currently identified as suitable for timber production, will remain suitable; old growth in forest type 25 (dry & dry-mesic oak-pine forests) that is on land that is identified as suitable will be available for harvest; all other old growth forest types will be unsuitable for timber production; we will continue to follow current Region 8 guidance on inventory of old growth characteristics before identifying any stands for harvest regardless of type.
15. Identify an objective for open woodland habitat and an objective for prescribed fire use and objectives for management of unplanned ignitions (wildfires).